

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A novel distributed printing system, method, program, printer and server are provided that provide optimum distributed printing without problems such as a backlog of print jobs in a print queue. A distributed print request is broadcasted to all printers and the most appropriate printer is selected from among responding printers on the basis of their printing capabilities and status information to assign the print job. Thus, the optimum printer can be selected without having to constantly monitor the capabilities and status of all printers. Furthermore, because status information such as the number of remaining paper sheets, in addition to printing capabilities, is used as criteria to select a printer, distributed printing can properly be scheduled without a backlog of print jobs in a print queue.